Bangladesh because they enter surreptitiously and are able to mingle easily with the local population due to ethnic and linguistic similarities.

(d) A series of measures have been taken by the Government to curb the problem of infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals into India. These include raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, accelerated programme of construction of border roads, and fencing, increase in the number of outpost towers, provision of surveillance equipments etc. The matter has also been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh on various occasions. The progress of these measures is reviewed regularly at various levels. State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have also been directed to enforce the provisions of Foreigners Act, 1946 (IMDT Act, 1983 in case of Assam) strictly.

Security cover for Amarnath Pilgrims

†1846. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Jammu and Kashmir had already informed the Centre about its inability to provide proper security cover to the devotees visiting Amarnath Shrine;

(b) if so, the steps Central Government has so far taken to make arrangement for ensuring that all devotees visit the Shrine to have darshan of Amarnath keeping in view the restriction on the number of visitors; and

(c) the details of the pilgrims killed so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the security arrangements for the

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Amamath Yatra were strengthened this year in the light of past experience and inputs regarding the designs of the terrorists with the arrangements having been planned out after a series of high-level meetings. The quantum of security forces deployed for Yatra security this time was higher than last year. The functional and territorial jurisdictions and tasks of various forces and units as regards area domination and presence of the heights along the route, road opening parties (RoPs), escort duty, camp security, access control and manning of check posts, anti-sabotage checks etc. had been fixed in advance by the State Government. For the better coordination and planning of security arrangements for the Yatra 2001, an apex body was formed by the State Government consisting of all members of the Core Group of UHQ at Srinagar with Chief Executive Officer, Shrine Board and concerned DIGs and Brigadiers as special invitees. Security coordination groups for the Yatra had also been constituted at lower levels.

(c) In a terrorist attack on the Amamath yatris at Sheshnag Camp, Anantnag on 21 July, 2001, 6 pilgrims were killed.

Problems of North-Eastern Region

1847. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: WU1 the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has seen news report under the heading "NCP accuse Centre for neglecting N-E" which appeared in 'The Hindu* on Sth June, 2001;

(b) if so, Government reaction thereto; and

(c) the measures to be taken by Government to tackle the problems of North-Eastern Region which are threatening to snowball into a major crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government is committed to restoration of peace in the North East. A Central team consisting of Shri I. D. Swami, Minister